

ROUTING SLIP

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: 1/25 1949

MR. SALYER _____

MR. KRUMMES _____

MR. DUMONT PAD _____

MISS BAUM _____

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

MR. GRIFFITH REG 4-6

DR. BURN WSB 2-7-49

MISS COOK we 3-10

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

MR. BALL _____

MR. REGAN _____

DR. MORLEY

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

MR. KENT OK

MR. ACKERKNECHT Coa

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

MR. TAYLOR _____

MR. JOHNSTON _____

STENOGRAPHERS:

NARRATIVE REPORT

REFUGE: NORTH DAKOTA EASEMENT DISTRICT NO. 3

PERIOD: SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 1948

NARRATIVE REPORT

Easement Refuges, N. Dak. District #3

September, October, November, December, 1948



General.

In general, it may be stated that the easement refuges are in good condition--especially considering the heavy work load on Lower Souris which has been more than aggravated by the heavy farming schedule, and the extensive repair and maintenance program on the refuge dams. We were able to inspect each refuge at least once, by one means or another, during the period. There was good waterfowl usage on most of the areas. Boundary markers were still mostly in pretty good shape due to the extensive replacement work of the previous year; a few replacements were made during the course of the inspection trips except that we were unable to get to School Section and Sheyenne by auto. The new road construction at Lords Lake will make a major reposting project necessary there.

WILLOW LAKE

This refuge was inspected twice, one aerial inspection by F. C. Gillett and C. J. Henry on October 24, and a survey from the ground by G. E. Mann and C. J. Henry on October 31. The buildings are in good condition but still in need of a paint job. It is really sad to see this nice set of buildings lying there empty, year after year while we have such an acute housing problem on many of the refuges.

The condition of the dam, if it may be termed as such, is satisfactory. Water is flowing under the one side that was not lowered, and it will probably be desirable some day to bring this side down to the same level as the other (which was lowered before the war). A family of beaver had "stolen our thunder" by constructing a beaver dam about 100 feet upstream from ours. An attempt was made to remove it as best we could without dynamite as the water levels in the lake are too high as is.

There were about the same numbers of birds on both inspections as both estimates were 8,000. The composition was extremely varied and included mainly mallards, scaup, pintail, ruddies, green-winged teal, canvasback, and redheads in approximately that order of abundance. There were very few gadwall, usually one of the most abundant ducks. Cormorants and a few gulls were still present.

LORDS LAKE

Also inspected twice the same as Willow Lake. Water levels of the lake were just about right, and the quantity and quality of the food and cover plants was very good. A new grade has been constructed around the south side of the lake and it will be necessary to check with the Township supervisors to be certain that a culvert is placed in the grade at the outlet location.

There were 15,000 ducks, mostly mallards, 300 geese (mostly Canadas, but a few white-fronts), and 30 swans on the lake October 24. On October 31 there were 16,000 ducks, mostly mallards, about 200 geese, mostly Canadas, and 30 swans. Most, or possibly all, of the mallards were feeding in the fields outside the refuge resulting in considerable hunting pressure. The boundary at the water's edge along the northwest corner is undesirable and reduces the effectiveness of the refuge somewhat.

RAAB LAKE

Inspected twice, October 24 and 31, as with the two others above. Water levels were high and emergent vegetation slight as compared to that of a few years ago. There were 100 ducks on October 24, and about 200 on the 31st, mostly mallards.

SCHOOL SECTION LAKE

Inspected from the air on October 24th but we were unable to get there on the 31st because of car trouble. On the 24th there were approximately 4,000 ducks, most of which were divers, and most of these were scaup.

SHEYENNE LAKE

Was inspected twice by airplane, October 14 and October 28, while enroute to Horsehead Lake on crane depredation work. Water levels are still too high but it is believed that this will be an excellent area during the next drought. There are vast numbers of sloughs and lakes in the area to the east and south, many of which will dry up during dry spells. During October there were upwards of 1000 ducks using the lake, most of which were mallards.

CAMP LAKE

Inspected October 31 by T. W. Lawson and Palmer Lunde. Strawberry Lake had 50 ducks and Camp Lake had 30.

LAKE NETTIE

Inspected October 31 by Lawson and Lunde. Everything was in good shape and there were 3,000 ducks, mostly mallards, and 15 Canada geese.

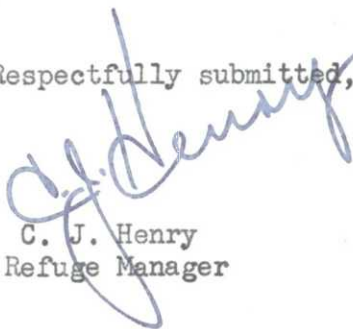
COTTONWOOD LAKE

Inspected October 31st by Lawson and Lunde. There was an exceptional number of ducks, 5000, for this small area that is ordinarily so bare. These were mostly mallards but there were also good numbers of pintail, scaup, ruddies, and green-winged teal.

WINTERING

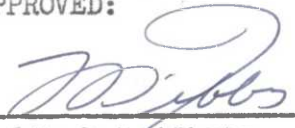
The area was in exceptionally good condition as compared to the usual for the fall. There was good representation of food and cover plants. There were 2000 ducks, mostly mallards, pintail, and green-winged teal.

Respectfully submitted,


C. J. Henry
Refuge Manager

1/12/49

APPROVED:


Acting Regional Director

JAN 17 1949

ROUTING SLIP

BRANCH OF WILDLIFE REFUGES

DATE: _____ 194 _____

MR. SALYER _____

~~MR. KROMMES~~ WS 10/28

~~MR. DUMONT~~ (PAD) 12-13-48

MISS BAUM _____

SECTION OF HABITAT IMPROVEMENT:

~~MR. GRIFFITH~~ REG 10-29

~~MR. BOURN~~ 9-28

~~MISS COOK~~ mc 10-14

SECTION OF OPERATIONS:

~~MR. DALL~~ _____

~~MR. REGAN~~ Apr 11/9/48

SECTION OF LAND MANAGEMENT:

MR. KENT JK

~~MR. ACKERKNECHT~~ SOA

SECTION OF STRUCTURES:

~~MR. TAYLOR~~ WV 5/25

MR. JOHNSTON _____

STENOGRAPHERS:

Jan 10/29 R.S.

ck 10-15-48

NARRATIVE REPORT

REFUGE: NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT #3

PERIOD: MAY - AUGUST 1948

WSB
9/28
JWC 10-14
ok 10-15-48

NARRATIVE REPORT

Easement Refuges, N. Dak. District #3

May, June, July, August, 1948

General.

Coots were especially abundant in nearly all lakes and potholes in the easement district.

Boundary markers were shot up as badly as usual, but were otherwise mostly intact. Those at Sheyenne were in very bad shape.

Water control structures were all in as good condition as previously reported except as noted.

The south easements were visited on August 27th and the north easements on August 31.

WINTERING

This area dried up nearly every summer until 1947, when 3,000 mallards were estimated to be using the area on October 16.

On August 27th this year the lake was full, and there was 28" of water 100 yards in from the east shore and the entire area was flooded. There had been a flow over the spillway until a short time prior to my visit.

The marsh has made an excellent and rapid comeback, considering that hay was cut over most of the area in 1946. Whitetop (Fluminia) and river bulrush (fruiting moderately) were co-dominant plants, with arrowhead (Sagittaria) appearing in frequent beds up to 50 feet in diameter. There was also a considerable amount of burreed and a large hardstem bulrush patch on the west side. A trace of cattails had appeared over most of the area and there was quite a heavy stand on the north end of the lake; bladderwort was the dominant submerged aquatic.

Usher Kromberg, son of the resident farmer, took me on an aerial survey of the area in his J-3 Cub, at which time we inspected each boundary marker. The waterfowl population was:

Mallards	700
Pintails	300
B.w. teal	100
Coots	<u>200</u>
Total	1300

According to Mr. Kromberg, many ducks nested around the lake this year. There were fairly large flocks of mallards in the fall of 1947, and these did some damage to shocked grain. Canada geese have stopped off there during the spring, and there were a few snow geese in either 1947 or 1948.

SHEYENNE

Water levels were as high as ever and are still causing considerable erosion of the road. //

There is a good marsh area at the west end of the lake. 3000 ducks (mostly mallards) and 1000 coots were on this area and on exposed bars. 700 coots were seen in other parts of the lake, mostly along the northeast shore, feeding in pondweed beds.

NETTIE

Water levels were still well up, and it appeared that the emergents in the north end had thinned out considerably. //

There were about 1800 ducks and 3700 coots on the lake. Mallards, pintails, gadwalls, greenwings, canvasbacks, and ruddys were identified.

The shoreline was, as usual, grazed to the ground by sheep.

CAMP

There was about 1/2 inch of water going over the spillway. //

14 pintails and mallards were seen in the south end of Strawberry Lake, and 10 coots and 6 ducks (including 2 ringnecks) were in Camp Lake.

LORDS LAKE

Water levels are still well up. In the east alkali lake the water extends into the emergent vegetation along the north shore. //

This water area had no ducks, but several thousand gulls were resting along the shore and in the lake. A small pothole along the road to the southeast had 50 ducks in it.

About 7300 coots, 350 ducks, and 3600 gulls were in the main lake.

COTTONWOOD

This and other south easement areas were visited on August 27. //

Water levels were 18" below the top of the cement on the outlet gate.

About 600 ducks and 500 coots were using the lake. The ducks were mostly pintails and mallards, although one canvasback was identified. An estimated 600 (300 ducks, 300 coots) of these were on the slough at the southwest end of the lake.

WILLOW LAKE

This and other north easement areas were visited on August 31. //

Water levels were 1" below the low spillway. The higher, east spillway has been entirely undermined so that the ground floor is now as low as or slightly lower than the cement floor of the west outlet. There was a slight flow underneath the east cement floor.

Cormorants were still using the trees on the nesting islands and probably raised young there this year. About 1000 ducks and 2000 coots were observed. The ducks identified included mallards, bluewings, canvasbacks, ruddys, and a flock of 50 ringnecks, the latter mostly male birds.

SCHOOL SECTION

Water has gone over the spillway this year and was just even with the top on August 31. This is the highest late summer level on record. //

About 500 ducks and 500 coots were using the lake.

RAAB

Water levels were up well. 75 ducks (mallards, bluewings, and a flock of 25 divers) could be seen from the point where I entered the lake. *not an exhaustive job!*

The above report, in its entirety, written by M. C. Hammond.

Respectfully submitted,

C. J. Henry
C. J. Henry
Refuge Manager

9/20/48

APPROVED:

[Signature]
REGIONAL DIRECTOR
SEP 22 1948